SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 AJC.com

$3.00

MOSTLY CLOUDY
High: 73
Low: 65
20% chance of rain

Mon.: Mostly cloudy, 70/54
Tue.: Showers, 66/51
Wed.: Showers, 62/48

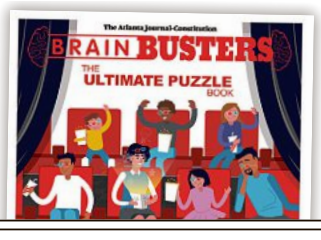
Complete weather: B10

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

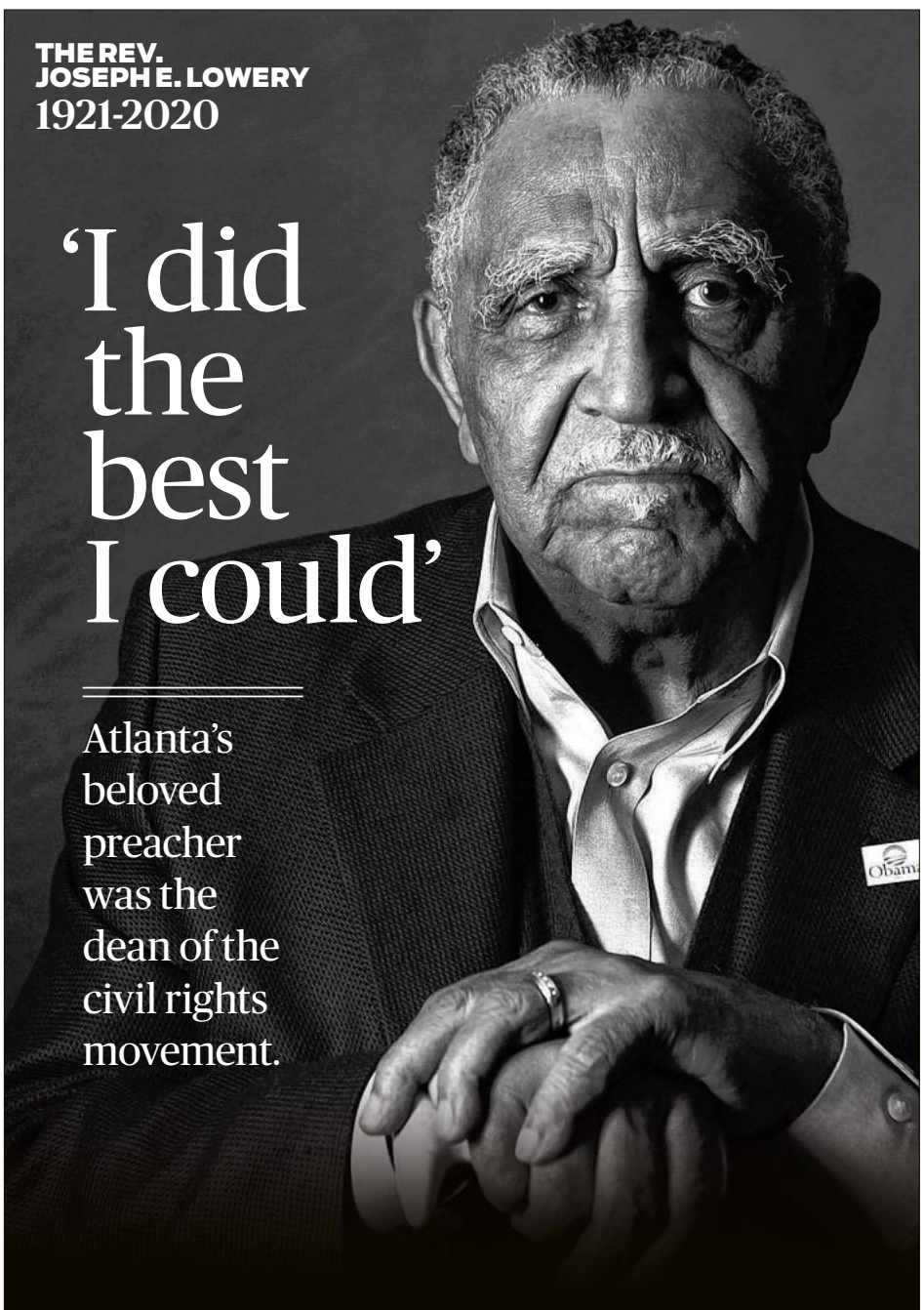
Credible. Compelling. Complete.

SUNDAY $404 IN COUPONS

BONUS SECTION
12 PAGES OF PUZZLES AND GAMES INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER



METRO, B1
WHY CRACKING DOWN ON GANGS IS GOING TO BE TOUGH



THE REV. JOSEPH E. LOWERY
1921-2020

'I did the best I could'

Atlanta's beloved preacher was the dean of the civil rights movement.

By Ernie Suggs | esuggs@ajc.com

In every man's life, there is a day of destiny.

Joseph Echols Lowery's came on a bright summer day in 1933, when he was only 11.

As he stepped out of his father's candy store in Huntsville, Alabama, a white police officer walked up.

"He hit me in the belly and said, 'Get back, (N-word). Don't you see a white man coming in?'" the Rev. Lowery recalled in a 2001 Atlanta Journal-Constitution interview. "I went home and looked for my father's pearl-handled .32. I got it and was gonna look for that cop."

But as he got to the porch, his father, LeRoy Lowery, appeared and asked why he was crying. His father took the gun and gave him a lecture.

"I had never seen my father at home during the day, except on Sundays," Lowery said. "I don't know why he came home that day. But I am glad he did."

But for that, Lowery said, he probably would have been beaten, jailed or lynched that afternoon.

Lowery continued on **A12**

INSIDE TODAY

» Reaction shows he was a true leader and icon in our city, **A13**
» From Huntsville, Alabama, to civil rights hero, **A14**
» Recapturing his life in photographs through the years, **A15**

AJC.com
Atlanta. News. Now.

» Read and sign the online guestbook for the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery.

AJC TOP STORY: CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

ONE CITY'S BATTLE AGAINST INVISIBLE ENEMY

Short on supplies, hospital in Albany is taking extreme measures.

By Brad Schrade
brad.schrade@ajc.com
and Johnny Edwards
jredwards@ajc.com

A rapidly growing rate of coronavirus infections has Albany under siege. Its main hospital is so overrun with sick and dying patients that nurses at one point had been told to keep working even if they tested positive themselves, and the administration turned to the underground market to try to find essential supplies.

The CDC and the state Department of Public Health have sent experts to investigate the catastrophic spread of the disease. Most nonessential local businesses have been disrupted or shuttered altogether. A downtown microbrewery has converted half of its brew tanks into a hand sanitizer production line. The local Procter & Gamble paper plant is working to pump out enough Charmin toilet paper and Bounty paper towels to help supply products that have disappeared from store shelves across

Hospital continued on **A4**

GOVERNMENT

Exhausted leaders come to grips with tough calls

Elected officials find themselves on the front line when it comes to handling this pandemic.

By Ben Brasch | ben.brasch@ajc.com
Meris Lutz | mlutz@ajc.com

When the month of March began, Cobb County Chairman Mike Boyce's focus was on upcoming town hall events meant to garner support for a transportation sales tax.

Spring festivals and the primary election were on the horizon. The Braves were set to start their fourth season just a stone's throw away from the Cobb Galleria.

As the month draws to a close, Boyce finds himself on the front lines of a global pandemic.

He has declared a state of emergency in the county, banned large public gatherings, closed all businesses not deemed essential and,

Local leaders continued on **A10**

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

IT IS GOING TO GET WORSE
'Explosive spread' of coronavirus in Georgia likely to worsen. **A3**

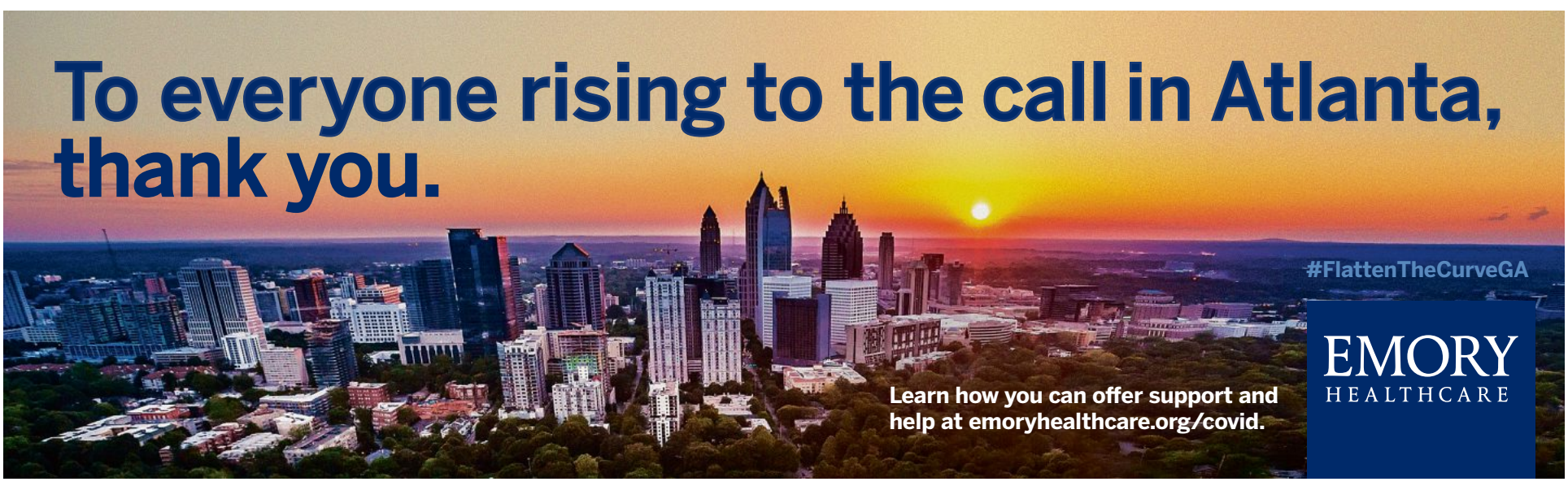
HOSPITAL FEELING THE PRESSURE
VA hospital in Decatur reports feeling the strain of dealing with COVID-19. **A6**

ATLANTA'S SPIRIT THRIVES
These difficult times spark a flurry of good deeds in our community. **A8**

SOME IGNORE WARNINGS
Despite pleas from officials, Atlanta's parks and paths remain popular. **A17**

Police tape closes off the play area on the Marietta square, as leaders navigate closures they must enforce to protect communities.
CURTIS COMPTON / CCOMPTON@AJC.COM

INDEX

Business	D1	Crossword	E9
Obituaries	B7	Dining	E10
Inspire Atlanta	E4	Travel	E13
Books	E8	Jobs	H1

Volume 72, Number 89